

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Kenmore Envelope Co. Inc.

GENEDGE ALLIANCE

Kenmore Envelope Co., Inc. Consolidates Operations

Client Profile:

Kenmore Envelope Company, Inc. (KE), founded in 1969, currently employs 90 people at its facility in Richmond, Virginia. Kenmore converts large, medium and small envelopes from all papers, with special windows. They offer large format offset sheet fed, jet press and enhanced flexo printing. Capabilities include digital pre-press, die cutting and folding.

Situation:

KE was located in two separate buildings, which resulted in excessive material handling and manual transportation of product and information. This multi-facility arrangement also created a host of other issues including supervision, safety and group dynamics. In order to address these logistical issues, KE was in the process of purchasing another larger facility for the consolidation of operations and requested assistance from GENEDGE ALLIANCE, formerly Virginia's A.L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership (VPMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, in laying out the manufacturing areas of the new facility.

Solution:

GENEDGE ALLIANCE project manager Mark Oakes worked with KE's management transition team to develop a layout that would be efficient and lead to productivity improvements. The project included: 1) data gathering on machine dimensions, utility requirements, and material storage requirements; 2) developing a relationship diagram highlighting process and equipment placement requirements; 3) development of AutoCAD drawing(s) of alternatives as developed by the team; and 4) assisting the team with "marking the floor" for equipment placement.

Results:

- * Realized \$5,000 in cost savings.
- * Improved workflow.
- * Improved process steps and communication.

Testimonial:

"By working with GENEDGE ALLIANCE's Mark Oakes and the relationship chart he was able to provide, the needs of all departments were addressed and the machinery layout and workflow issues resolved for all of the outside contractors we used."

Rhett Riddle, President